

**DATE:** September 27, 2000

**TO:** Commission on EMS

**FROM:** Richard E. Watson  
Interim Director

**Prepared by:** Maureen McNeil  
Chief, EMS Division

**SUBJECT:** [EMS Authority Progress Report](#)

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive the information.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact.

**DISCUSSION:**

The EMS Authority Progress Report provides the status of the Authority's projects. The following is additional information on issues the Commission has expressed interest in knowing about.

**Legislation**

The Legislative Session ended on August 31, 2000. This was also the end of a two-year session, so bills that had not passed out of the Legislature, were dead. Bills that did pass the Legislature get enrolled and sent to the Governor. The Governor has 30 days to sign or veto the enrolled bills, or he can choose not to sign or veto the enrolled bills and let them get chaptered without his signature. A listing of EMS-related bills is maintained on the EMS Authority homepage, and the status of those bills has been updated for your review.

**Poison Center Funding**

During the EMSA budget hearings, both the Senate and Assembly budget subcommittees approved an additional \$2.5 million for poison center funding. However, the Governor deleted

the augmentation from the budget. In his budget message he directed the EMS Authority Director to continue to seek a federal fund match from the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC). A letter has been sent to CMAC requesting the federal fund match. CMAC has asked EMSA to give a presentation to the Commission on September 14, 2000. If CMAC does not approve the match, the poison center system may close February, 2000.

#### 2000 Statewide Medical & Health Disaster Exercise

On Thursday, November 9, 2000, from 8:00a.m. until 12:00 p.m., the second annual statewide disaster exercise will take place. Last year, over 400 healthcare facilities, over 100 ambulance providers and nearly every county participated in the disaster exercise. This statewide medical and health disaster exercise is a cooperative effort of many agencies including the EMS Authority, Department of Health Services, State/Regional and local Office of Emergency Services, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, California Healthcare Association, Healthcare Association of Southern California, Regional Hospital Associations, California Ambulance Association, California Fire Chiefs, Amateur Radio volunteers, Los Angeles County and hospital and health systems corporations.

This year, the disaster scenario includes an earthquake, telephone outages, utility outages, hazardous materials incidents, a train derailment and a tsunami. Each participant can customize the scenario to meet the specific agency or facility needs or geography. These disaster exercises assist operational areas (counties) and the medical and health providers within that operational area to prepare and respond as a unified emergency management community, and provide for the public health and safety for the threats and dangers associated with disasters.